

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are currently pending.

1. Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Hall and Examiner Jones during the telephonic interview of April 15, 2005. Applicant provides the comments below based on the content of the telephonic interview.

2. Claims 1 and 13 were objected to for reciting a computer-implemented method. The PTO appears to assert that the language "computer implemented method" infers that the method is implemented solely by a computer by a computer readable media. The claims nowhere recite a computer readable media. Instead, a computer implemented method is simply a method implemented by one or more computers, which is clear from the language of the claims. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101 and the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraph, among others. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 13.

3. Claims 1, 2-6, 10, 12-14, 17-18, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lappington et al. (US Patent 5,734,413; hereinafter "Lappington"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented method for providing an event related game. The method includes receiving event data associated with a media broadcast at a computer, generating a printable game set, and providing the printable game set in an electronic format configured for printing by a user. The printable game set includes at least one game card and a set of trade tickets. The at least one game card includes a list of game events associated with the media broadcast. Each trade ticket of the set of trade tickets identifies a game event.

Claim 13 is directed to a computer-implemented method of providing interactive entertainment associated with a broadcast sports game. The method includes receiving event data associated with the broadcast sports game at a computer, generating a game set, and providing the game set in an electronic format configured for printing by a user. The game set

includes a plurality of game cards and a plurality of trade tickets. Each game card of the plurality of game cards lists a unique set of game events associated with the broadcast sports game. Each trade ticket of the plurality of trade tickets includes a unique game event. At least one of the plurality of trade tickets includes a game win event associated with the team associated with the broadcast sports game.

Claim 27 is directed to a method of providing an event related game. The method includes receiving at a computer a request for a printable game set associated with a media broadcast, generating the printable game set, and providing to a user computer the printable game set in an electronic format configured for printing on paper by a user. The printable game set includes at least one game card and a unique identification number. The at least one game card includes a set of elements associated with the media broadcast.

Claims 1 and 13 both recited “trade tickets.” As stated in the present specification, a player holding an event card associated an event that occurs during the game may forcibly trade tickets with another player in an attempt to acquire a winning ticket. Present Specification, par. [0020]. The players may force other players to trade a ticket with them when an event indicated by a player’s trade ticket occurs in the game. Present Specification, par. [0029]. Each trade ticket has at least one event listed from a set of possible events that may occur within a sports event. If an event is observed, a player holding the trade ticket indicating that event may force another player to trade tickets. Present Specification, par. [0032]. As such, a trade ticket is clearly a physical ticket that is exchanged between players. Claim 27 requires that the printable game set be in an electronic format configured for printing on paper by a user.

In the Office Action, the PTO relies on Lappington. Lappington is directed to an interactive television system where interactive information is inserted in vertical blanking intervals of a standard television signal or some other appropriate medium. Lappington, Abstract. In reference to FIG. 1, Lappington discloses that an insertion control 14 utilizes an insertion card 20 to insert interactive data onto a television signal 16. The insertion card 20 adds or encodes the interactive data to the VBI lines of television signal 16 and sends the encoded television signal 22 to a transmitter. The encoded television signal 22 can be sent from a satellite transmitter and received by a satellite receiver 26. Lappington, col. 8, ll. 4-61. FIG. 4 shows the

hardware architecture for an insertion card 20, which consists of a video processing circuitry, a video signal processor, a control processor, hardware failure detection circuitry, and an IBM PC AT bus interface. Lappington, col. 15, ll. 44-48. With respect to trade tickets, the PTO relies upon Lappington's disclosure of registers that can store viewer input for later use or text that a script writer wants to display in a message or question. Lappington, col. 22, ll. 14-32. These registers reside within a handheld device. Lappington fails to teach or remotely suggest that the data stored in such registers is configured for a user to print on paper.

With respect to claims 1 and 13, Lappington clearly fails to teach or remotely suggest trade tickets. Trade tickets are clearly tickets to be exchanged or traded by players. In interpreting the claim, the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning in light of the specification. See MPEP 2111.01. The term "trade tickets" includes both "trade" and "tickets." The PTO must interpret the plain meaning of both words. The plain meaning of "trade" clearly relates to exchange between parties. Lappington's registers are clearly not traded and are clearly not tradable. As such, Lappington fails to teach or suggest "trade tickets."

In contrast, claim 1 recites generating a printable game set and providing the printable game set in an electronic format configured for printing by a user. The printable game set includes at least one game card and a set of trade tickets. Claim 13 recites generating a game set and providing the game set in an electronic format configurable for printing by a user. The game set includes a plurality of game cards and a plurality of trade tickets. Lappington fails to teach or suggest trade tickets. As such, Lappington fails to teach each and every element of the claims.

With respect to claim 27, Lappington clearly fails to teach or suggest providing a printable game set in an electronic format configured for printing on paper by a user. The registers relied upon by the PTO are not configured for printing on paper by a user and Lappington fails to teach or suggest such a configuration.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 2-6, 10, 12-14, 17-18, and 27-28 are not anticipated by Lappington. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection.

4. Claims 7-9, 11, 15-16 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lappington in view of Libby et al. (US 6,193,605; hereinafter "Libby"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 13, and 27 have been described above for clarity. Claim 20 is directed to a method of providing interactive entertainment associated with a media event. The method includes accessing a game set provided in a printable electronic format. The game set includes a plurality of game cards and a set of trade tickets. Each game card of the plurality of game cards includes a distinct list of game events. Each trade ticket in the set of trade tickets identifies a game event. The method further includes printing the game set and distributing one game card of the plurality of game cards and a subset of trade tickets of the set of trade tickets to one of the plurality of players.

In an attempt to establish *prima facie* obviousness, the PTO again primarily relies on Lappington. As described above, Lappington fails to teach or suggest a game set including a game card and a trade ticket, fails to teach or suggest game cards including a distinct list of game events, and fails to teach or suggest trade tickets identifying a game event. Nevertheless, the PTO turns to Libby.

Libby is directed to a computerized lottery or wagering system that permits players to select game parameters from remote locations, transfer the selected game parameters to a game generator, and broadcast the lottery game on television for public viewing. Libby, Abstract. At col. 6, ll. 17-27, Libby discloses that a ticket or receipt of the transaction is provided by a printer. At col. 7, ll. 13-19, Libby discloses that if the reply is that the data received was invalid, the user is notified by a display or printer. If the reply is that the data transfer is complete, the player selection data and associated ID and time tag data are printed on a printer to provide the player with a receipt for the transaction. Libby does not disclose printing a game set, the game set including a plurality of game cards and a set of trade tickets. Further, Libby fails to disclose distributing one game card of a plurality of game cards and a subset of trade tickets to one of a plurality of players. As such, Libby fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lappington. Moreover, Libby fails to teach or suggest many of the other elements of the dependent claims clearly not disclosed by Lappington.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 7-9, 11, 15-16 and 20-26 are patentable over Lappington in view of Libby. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,



Date

5/1/08

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